

I am concerned about our democracy. I see less and less solid news and more and more propaganda. I fear that many viewers no longer distinguish between them. It is the role of government bodies, such as the FCC to control this dangerous slide. The airways belong to the people, not to special interests. Broadcasters must serve the public weal, and newsmedia must fulfill their role as the 4th estate.

That a company such as Sinclair Broadcasting would use its stations to defame a presidential candidate days before the election makes a travesty of media responsibility. It demonstrates why media consolidation is so damaging to democracy.

Please accept YOUR responsibility at the FCC to create a higher bar for media ownership. Tighten the rules on ownership. Make it more difficult for licenses to be renewed. Demand more of our media, in the name of the people. That is your role.

Without an independent press (independent of the owners of media companies and of vested interests) and media rules that demand the highest level of journalism, citizens become less and less informed and more and more easily swayed by propaganda.

This is the gravest danger facing our democracy, and the FCC is the body in place to deal with it. Please do.

Thank you for your attention.

Pamela Harris